REMARKS

Claim 11 is the only claim pending in the application.

In the last Office Action Claims 1, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller *et al.* in view of Quadir. Claims 1 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice in order to advance the prosecution of the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of Claim 11 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 11 is directed to a connector member for making electrical connections through the wall of a LPG fuel tank of a motor vehicle designed to operate with a pressure within a tank higher than the external pressure. The connector member is comprised of a body at least partially made of a synthetic or elastomer material which is designed to be received in a through hole of a closure plate for the tank in which there are embedded one or more conductor pins projecting from the opposite ends of the member.

In the Final Rejection the Examiner relied upon the patent to Miller et al. for providing a body partially made of synthetic material designed to be received in the through hole of a wall plate of a tank in which are embedded one or more conductor pins (58, 60, 62 and 64) projecting from opposite ends of the body. The Examiner recognized that the conductor pins are not embedded in the body and has relied upon the teachings of the Quadir patent for the showing of conductor pins (70) embedded in the body (60).

It is submitted that the conductor pins 70 of Quadir are not embedded in the cap (60). Quadir specifically sets forth in column 4, lines 25-28 that each electrical conductor pin (70) is

mounted inside the cap (60) by means of glass beads (not shown). Although Quadir states that the glass beads are sealed around the electrical conductor pin (70) and are sealed to the inside portion of the cap, there is absolutely no disclosure of the configuration of the conductor pin which would lead to an embedded connection. It is clear from the present invention as best seen in Figure 4 that each of the conductor pins is provided with a reduced diameter portion 8a. Thus, when the body of the connector member is molded about the conductor pins the synthetic or elastomer material of the connector member enters the reduced diameter portion 8a so that the conductor pins are embedded in the material of the connector body. Thus, pins cannot move relative to the conductor body within the through hole. There is nothing to stop the pins of Quadir from moving relative to the glass beads since the pins of Quadir are not embedded in the glass beads. The pins could relatively move longitudinally within the cap. According to the Webster dictionary definition of the term "embed" the meaning is to enclose closely in a matrix or to make something an integral part of the surrounding material. The glass beads of Quadir really do not fall within the definition of the term embedded as used in Claim 11.

A further important feature of the invention is set forth in Claim 11 wherein the body of the connector member has a portion designed to be received in the through hole with an end flange having front cavities each of which is traversed by the respective conductor pin with a seal ring mounted within each of the cavities between the respective conductor pin and the wall of the cavity. The claim further sets forth that the seal rings are pressed axially by portions projecting from a cover plate juxtaposed with said flange. The seal ring (35) about each conductor pin is clearly shown in Figure 4 with portions (36) projecting from the cover plate (37) to axially press

the sealing rings (35). Thus, due to the axial force applied to the sealing ring (35) the sealing rings are forced into tighter radial engagement about each conductor pin. Such a feature is not disclosed or even remotely suggested by either Martin *et al.* or Quadir.

In view of the foregoing distinctions which patentably define Claim 11 over the teachings of Miller *et al.* and Quadir, taken either alone or in combination with each other, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 11 is allowable. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that Claim 11 be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert V. Sloan
Registration No. 22,775

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 23, 2005